

a \$2,500 claimer and you carry more or less trashy bills, as you become a little more experienced you carry the more important bills, and eventually you become really experienced, you get up to where you serve on the very important committees, Appropriations and Revenue, and then after a while you peak, and you begin kind of a downhill slide, and that is kind of like...about an 8-year-old thoroughbred, and you decide, well, maybe the best thing I can do is try to avoid being retired. In the case of a thoroughbred you go on down to the Alpo plant and when you break out of the gate you just kind of run along with the herd and you hope to finish third or fourth and avoid breaking a leg or something. That's the way we do it on this floor here. So there are a lot of similarities between the thoroughbred industry and the State Legislature. But I want to point out also that here on the legislative floor many times we debate the impact of the industry upon the population, and we discuss whether or not the side effects, the parimutuel betting is meritorious or otherwise. Well, parimutuel betting falls under the description of good gambling. And so those of you who have any doubts about whether or not you ought to enlarge and expose a greater share of the population to the benefits of interstate simulcasting, I want to reassure you that parimutuel betting is good gambling and it doesn't necessarily corrupt your morals, in the opinion of most of us, if you participate in it. I want to say also that we estimate that interstate simulcasting could perhaps increase the handle by maybe 20 percent over what we have now. We might even, thereby, get the handle up to the point where the tracks would again begin to pay a little tax to the State of Nebraska, which of course is of deep interest to all of us. I want to say this, that as I said earlier, the General Affairs Committee did a lot of work on the bill, and there have been some attempts made to address some of the other concerns. I had another bill, LB 641, which was somewhat debated as to whether or not it would be a reasonable amendment to this bill. I think it would be. I'm not going to offer it at this time, I'm going to go along with the spirit of Senator Chambers and hope the bill will move somewhat smoothly today. If there is any need for additional consideration, if there are other amendments that need to be offered, hopefully we can do it on Select File. I would hope the bill could be advanced and that we could move it along so that if it does become law, and that is the wishes of the people of this Legislature and the Governor of the State of Nebraska that it can become law soon enough so that we can enjoy the benefits of interstate simulcasting on the Kentucky Derby this year. Therefore,